

Caucus Call Notes - Blockades

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Omar Alghabra:

- Blockades are a serious concern
- Economically this is a concern, especially ambassador bridge
- 20% of our trade
- Hurts our investment environment
- Blockade is taking place on municipal land/road
- Windsor police are the jurisdiction
- Spoke with Minister Mulroney and Secretary Buttigieg
- Have been meeting with the auto sector, retail council
- Tackling this as a whole of government issue

Marco Mendicino:

- Thank you for reaching out MPs in Ottawa, Fort Erie, Windsor etc.
- We've been working very closely with affected municipalities to ensure they are getting reinforcements.
- We've seen more charges laid. Arrests.
- We've worked to cut off fuel and jerry cans.
- Starting to see additional volume coming back into Ottawa.
- Pleased to share the news that we are sending a second installation of RCMP officers to the City of Ottawa.
- RCMP are in contact with OPS and OPP.
- Ambassador Bridge is a significant and ongoing concern.
- 0 trucks coming through. Devastating impact on our economy.
- Mobilizing more RCMP at Coutts in Alberta.
- Another blockade in Emerson. RCMP are moving quickly.

Bill Blair:

- Canadians don't want us to argue about jurisdictions, but there have been good communication between our officials and municipal and provincial officials.
- Good collaborative relationship there.
- Office of the Premier brought an application before the Superior Court to stop money going to the Freedom Convoy through an online fundraising platform.
- Our officials are in touch with the White House and the Governor's Mansion in Michigan. It is impacting their manufacturing too. US has offered all support.

Peter Schiefke:

- Two questions: 1) A story came out today that the Government of Ontario missed a meeting regarding the stand off in Ottawa. 2) Reports that the American contribution to this in terms of financing – Attorney General of Texas is launching an inquiry into GoFundMe freezing and refunding funds.

Julie Dzerowicz:

- I feel like we continue to rely too much on the other levels of government on this. We should act more decisively at the Federal level. 1) CBC article – three key leaders of Convoy: Former RCMP, top-counter terrorism expert. This is why they know what to do. 2) Are we looking at the Emergency Measures Act? We are losing the respect of the US and Canadians. New Zealand is already shutting down protesters.

Anita Vandenbeld:

- Issue in Ottawa is dispersing from core to suburbs. They are now going to schools and door-to-door. Incident at my home and Jenna Sudds' constituency office. Article: We are allowing Ottawa Police to let them part in Federal parking lots.

Marco Mendicino:

- While Minister Jones wasn't at the meeting we have been in touch with them. Dominic LeBlanc has been in touch with the Premier. OPP is making contributions. There are significant consequences where people are breaking the law. US contributions and the like – this is a question that is on all of our minds. Protesters have taken some outrageous positions. GoFundMe has taken a first decisive step. We need to have a look at foreign interference and how money has been funnelling in. If there is evidence of illegal contributions (undermining public safety or our national security) we have a robust National Security apparatus that will respond to that independently. Julie – here what you are saying. This is why we have been in contact with the City and Province. Asking them what they need. Provided additional RCMP. Operational decisions are taken by the police and for good reason. Politicians don't direct police and good for reason. Emergency Measures Act – those laws are there and are exceptional. There is no doubt that if we found ourselves in a moment to use it we would. We do not take them lightly. We are currently relying on traditional law enforcement to get the job done. On crown land we have taken action and OPS has taken action. Structures have been taken down.

Brenda Shanahan:

- Other border crossings. Who has their eyes on other borders? I do not share the optimism.

John McKay:

- My reaction is too little too late. Fairly organized entity. Consider the whole occupation to be sedition. Why are the organizers who have been identified not charged with sedition? Borders are shared jurisdiction. Can license numbers be taken down? If they do not move their truck they will not be allowed to cross the border.

Yasir Naqvi:

- Want to add a piece around what Anita is adding. They are using other Federal lands, not just NCC. It feels like we are letting them build an encampment around the city. The time has come to put our foot down.

Bill Blair:

- People are frustrated by a lack of action by the police. We cannot direct them to enforce the law. I share the frustration about the lack of enforcement. You need to understand that police over the past decade have taken an approach that puts enforcement last and prioritizes negotiation. While we had challenges getting the Province at the tripartite table, the Province has shown signs that they will stand up to the plate. They are not suggesting that we are out of the woods. It will be a hard slog.

Marco Mendicino:

- Yasir we will stay in touch. We cannot direct the prosecution service to prosecute people. We will stay in touch and our teams will stay in touch with you.

Zachary Nixon

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